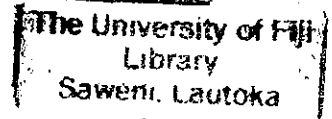




The University of Fiji



School of Humanities & Arts

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND
COMMUNICATION**

LLCF11: FOUNDATION ENGLISH AND STUDY SKILLS 1

EXAMINATION

SEMESTER ONE 2012

Time allowed: Three Hours
[10 Minutes Reading Time Also Allowed]

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do all questions.
2. The only Section where you have a choice is in Section C, Writing.
3. Read the instructions at the beginning of each question.
4. Write all answers in the Answer Booklet provided.
5. Number your answers and parts of answers clearly.

SECTION A: Comprehension and Summary (30 marks)

- There are *three* passages altogether.
- Read each passage and answer the questions in your Answer Booklet.

Passage One The Lost World (13 marks)

Most people bring back the usual *mementos* from their trips: photographs, T shirts, diarrhoea. The BBC Natural History Unit, however, returned home with *something better*. A scientific team from the British broadcaster visited the South Pacific country of Papua New Guinea earlier *this year* to film a nature documentary and, in the process, discovered more than 30 new species of animals. Among the creatures – all living inside the crater of the extinct Mount Bosavi volcano – were a giant rat measuring 81 cm long and weighing nearly 1.5 kg, making it one of the largest rodents on Earth, along with 16 species of frogs, at least three types of fish and a bat. “It was mind-blowing,” George McGavin, a biologist on the *team*, told reporters. “The crater of Mount Bosavi really is the Lost World.”

While the sheer number and sizes of the animals were *extraordinary*, the scientific discovery of new species is quite *routine*. Biologists are identifying *them* at a rate of about 50 a day. Nearly 17,000 new plants and animals were described in 2006 alone – some 1% of the 1-8 million species that have been named so far. (Estimates of the total number of species range from 5 million to as many as 100 million). Yet even as we discover new ones, we’re losing species at 10,000

5

10

15

times the natural rate—a loss of life so great that we’ve entered the **sixth great mass extinction wave** in Earth’s history.

Why? When the environment changes faster than life can adapt, extinction is inevitable. But the present danger comes from the annihilation of the tropical forests, which house a richer variety of animals and plants than any other place on the planet. Papua New Guinea lost more than 25% of its forest from 1972 to 2002, and the BBC team noted that an area was being logged just 32 km from the Bosavi crater. As of 2005, nearly 6 million hectares of primary, untouched forest were being felled every year—taking with them species we’ll never get the chance to count.

(From: ‘The Lost World’ by Bryan Walsh in TIME, 2009)

Questions

1. Give another word for **mementos** (line 1). (1 mark)
2. What does **something better** (line 3) refer to? (1 mark)
3. What was **this year** (line 5)? (1/2 mark)
4. What does **It** (line 9) refer to? (1 mark)
5. What **team** (line 10) was McGavin a member of? (1 mark)
6. What was **extraordinary** (line 12)? (1 mark)
7. What are **them** (line 13)? (1 mark)

8. (a) What does the writer describe as **routine** (line 13)? (1/2 mark)
(b) Why was it routine? (1/2 mark)
9. What fact proves that we have entered the **sixth great mass extinction wave** (lines 18-19)? (1/2 mark)
10. Give words from the last paragraph which mean
(a) cannot be avoided
(b) destruction (1 mark)
11. **Summary.** Give two facts from the last paragraph which prove that Papua New Guinea is suffering severe loss of rainforest. (2 marks)
12. Explain the appropriateness of the title of the passage. (2 marks)

Passage Two Greenland Sheds Ice in Record Melt (5 marks)

Paris: Greenland's icesheet, feared as a major driver of rising sea levels, shed a record amount of melted snow and ice in 2010, scientists revealed a day after the United Nations said last year was the warmest on record.

The 2010 runoff was more than twice the average annual loss in Greenland over the previous three decades, surpassing a record set in 2007, said the study, published in the US-based journal *'Environmental Research Letters.'*